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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Institute of Museum and Library Services Announces The Children's Museum at La Habra as a California finalist for the 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service

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WASHINGTON (March 3, 2014) – The Institute of Museum and Library Services today announced The Children's Museum at La Habra as a National Medal for Museum and Library Service finalist. The National Medal, the nation's highest honor conferred on museums and libraries for service to the community, will be celebrating its 20th year of saluting institutions that make a difference for individuals, families, and communities.

Medal finalists are selected from nationwide nominations of institutions that demonstrate innovative approaches to public service, exceeding the expected levels of community outreach. This year's finalists exemplify the nation's great diversity of libraries and museums and include an aquarium, conservatory and botanical gardens, a university library, public libraries, children's museums, art museums, science centers, and more, hailing from across the country.

"Museums and libraries serve as civic gathering places, bringing together individuals in pursuit of educational resources, community connections, skills development, and multifaceted lifelong learning," said Susan Hildreth, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. "We are very proud to announce Los Angeles Public Library, Sacramento Public Library, and The Children's Museum at La Habra as finalists for the 2014 National Medal. This year's National Medal finalists illustrate the many ways museums and libraries can excite lifelong learning and civic engagement."

Finalists are chosen because of their significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. IMLS is encouraging community members who have visited these institutions to share their story on the IMLS Facebook page, www.facebook.com/USIMLS. Visit the IMLS Facebook page to learn more about how these institutions make an impact. National Medal for Museum and Library Service winners will be announced this spring.

To *Share Your Story,* please visit <u>www.facebook.com/USIMLS</u>. To learn more about the 2014 National Medal finalists, visit <u>www.imls.gov/medals</u>.

Celebrating 20 Years

This year, IMLS celebrates the 20th anniversary of the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. For the past two decades, the National Medal has honored outstanding institutions that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. Including 2013 winners, 132 institutions have received this honor, and ten additional institutions will be awarded in 2014.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit http://www.imls.gov and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

About The Children's Museum at La Habra

The Children's Museum at La Habra opened in December 1977, and is located in a historic 1923 Union Pacific Depot Train Depot. The Children's Museum at La Habra was one of only a few such museums open on the West Coast during the 1970's. The Children's Museum at La Habra is a hands-on learning facility for children from infancy through age 12. The Museum is located at 301 S. Euclid Street in La Habra. General admission is \$8 per person; children under two are free, \$7 La Habra Residents. The Museum is open to the public from Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sundays 1 - 5 p.m. and is closed Mondays and major holidays. Reservations are required for groups of 15 or more. For further information, call (562) 383-4236.